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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION
MR. PEURIFOY
FEB 17 1948
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

943 MAR 5 PM February 17, 1948
Reply drafted - 3/1/48
FP: [unclear] G. E. Askerson Jr.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Ackerson
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drafted for A-P's
signature.

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Dear Jack:

With reference to the attached copy of a letter, I hope you will NOT pull out of CIA a Foreign Service Officer without replacing him by another FSO. There are only two of us FSO's here now anyway - much too few in my estimation - and only five other State Department personnel.

I hope that sometime there will be available enough FSO's to keep a half-dozen in CIA all of the time, in hitches of a couple of years each. It would be good; experience and training and re-Americanization for them; and would also be good for CIA; which is still suffering from growing pains and is overweighted with the military - as I suppose it must be, especially in this day and age.

Actually [] is not anxious for a transfer and likes his present job, but he realizes he cannot stay forever and he doesn't want to stay in Washington under the now false presumption of his family's ill health. He is a good conscientious fellow doing good work.

As you will note from the CIA memo to you of August 14, 1947 less than half of the 16 positions allotted to State in this inter-agency organization are filled and nowadays only two are FSO's. Would it not be possible to fill some or all of the others with FSO's? At least that is a good "target" or "objective" as we say in my present parlance!

[Redacted Signature]

PRESCOTT CHILDS
Chief, ICAPS

The Honorable John E. Peurifoy
Assistant Secretary of State

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Central file

MAR 3 1948

Dear Prescott:

Thank you for your letter of February 17, 1948 with regard to the assignment of Foreign Service Officers and State Department personnel to CIA. [redacted]

Garry Ackerson received the letter of February 12 from [redacted]. It made a very good impression on people in FP, who felt that [redacted] showed a real spirit of responsibility in advising the Department that the original reasons for his assignment to CIA had now passed. However, there is at present no reason to transfer [redacted] and it is expected that he will remain on his present assignment. This matter is being discussed with him.

We should like very much to assign some more Foreign Service Officers to CIA but this is not practical at the present time. In point of fact, we have not been able to fill the complements of the various divisions in the State Department and in other departments and agencies in Washington. There is, as you will appreciate, a shortage of trained personnel, which will remain somewhat stringent for sometime to come. Nevertheless, we have CIA in mind and shall do our best to send other officers when they become available.

I greatly appreciate your kindness in bringing this matter to my attention.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

John E. Pourifoy
Assistant Secretary

Prescott Childs, Esquire,
Chief, ICAPS,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington 25, D. C.

FP:GCA:idl 3-1-48

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